

continually were being used

The full Eastern Hemisphere Migration Census, a six-month survey facility for the migratory Birds of Prey Annual Survey (Bird of Prey Census), has been made available for its official recording of wildlife birds by the census. (See on Page 50.)

The CMAPM card, which has a picture of a smiling life Aryan in the background, claims that they are affiliated to movements in San Jose, Guatemala City, Santa Maria, India, Tapan, Dargan, Aligarh, etc. signed his card on March 26, 2004, or two months before the presidential election.

WEATHER FORECAST

PHILIPPINE WEATHER FORECAST FOR JUNE 10, 2006.
Metro Manila: Partly cloudy to mostly cloudy with scattered showers or light rain.

Second FRONT PAGE
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Table with 4 columns: Region, City/Town/Village, Weather, and Time. Includes entries for NCR, Ilocos, Cebu, and Mindanao.

Grace now wants 'jueteng' legalized

By Leticia B. Salazar

EX-SEN. Grace Poe, after making the explosive declaration that she plans to run for president, has now made the controversial statement that she wants 'jueteng' legalized.

She has been making the case for 'jueteng' legalization for some time. She has even been quoted as saying that she would like to see 'jueteng' legalized.

Asked if the thought of being seen as a gambler was a possibility, Poe said, "I'm not looking for them to see me as a gambler. But I'm looking for them to see me as a leader."

Señeres: I'm not out yet

By Jerome B. Salazar

EX-SEN. Manuel Luis Oquendo has been seen in various places, including in the Philippines, where he is currently on a mission to raise funds for the Philippine Red Cross.



He has been seen in various places, including in the Philippines, where he is currently on a mission to raise funds for the Philippine Red Cross.

Anti-'jueteng' bishop disowns 'destab' plot

By Christian V. Espinosa

ARCHBISHOP Oscar Cruz and Malabon Mayor Antonio Trillanes have been accused of plotting to overthrow the government.

He was seen in various places, including in the Philippines, where he is currently on a mission to raise funds for the Philippine Red Cross.

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Boracay resort one big AFP folly—Pimentel

By John L. Linares

THE BORACAY RESORT project is a folly, says Senator Pimentel. He says the project is a waste of money and will not benefit the local economy.

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He says the project is a waste of money and will not benefit the local economy.

Military court chides Garcia for delaying trial

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

A MILITARY tribunal yesterday castigated retired Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia for delaying his trial.

The head of the court martial, Lt. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio, also said that Garcia had not made "substantial progress" in his defense.

Garcia, former Armed Forces chief comptroller, was charged with conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, for his undeclared wealth and his being a permanent resident of the US.

The military court issued the rebuke after it granted a motion by Garcia's lawyers to postpone yesterday's hearing.

Garcia showed up but his civilian lawyers, former judge Jose Bautista and Constantino de Jesus, were at a hearing on Garcia's forfeiture case before the Sandiganbayan.

"We view with concern the seemingly much delay in the proceedings," Teodosio, the court president, said. "We've been here for so long but we're not substantially progressing." He reminded defense lawyers to observe the hearing dates set in advance.

Garcia had presented six witnesses, but the five-member court was apparently still waiting for Garcia to get to the heart of the case.

"We advise the defense to be more direct in its presentation of the case so next hearing we'll make more



GARCIA on his way to trial

headway with the proceedings," Teodosio said.

Military defense counsel Lt. Col. Antonio Doronila later denied to reporters that they had caused the delay.

He said Bautista and De Jesus asked for postponement the previous day, but Teodosio did not act upon it.

When he told the court that the "civilian case is more severe," the court law member, Col. Caridad Aguilar rebuked him. "You should know better," she told him.

Col. Al Ferreras, chief military

prosecutor, said Garcia's lawyers were nitpicking on "technicalities."

"As far as the prosecution is concerned, they're not controverting what was said in the charge sheet. That's what the court is waiting for," he said in an interview.

But he said they understood that Garcia's lawyers had to go to the Sandiganbayan.

The trial began last Nov. 17.

The prosecution presented records of sizable bank accounts and luxury vehicles under Garcia's name and his wife's, his statements of assets and liabilities and records of his US immigrant status.

Garcia's lawyers have called the staff of former AFP chief of staff Gen. Narciso Abaya and military investigators to testify on the memos ordering a court martial for Garcia.

His lawyers said Abaya rushed the filing of charges before he retired on June 29 last year.

Garcia's lawyers said they wanted to put Abaya on the witness stand, which prosecutors said they would oppose.

On Wednesday the AFP turned over Garcia to the Sandiganbayan after an arrest warrant was issued.

Garcia had no complaints about his new detention quarters at the PNP headquarters in Camp Crame, according to his lawyer Doronila.

"In fact, maybe it's much better that he's there," he added.

Lawyers want ex-general moved to V. Luna

By Nelson F. Flores

THE LAWYERS of retired armed forces comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia citing health reasons, yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan to have him transferred from Camp Crame Center to the V. Luna Medical Center.

To bolster their claim, Garcia's lawyers - retired Malabon Regional Trial Court Judge Jose Bautista and Constantino de Jesus - presented Dr. Noel Gaurano, a pulmonologist, before the members of the anti-graft court's Second Division presided over by Justice Edilberto Sandoval where the 303 million plunder case of Garcia are being heard.

Gaurano testified that Garcia is suffering from an illness known as apnea,

a form of sleeping disorder, which affects the airflow in the nose and mouth. He also said that treatment for apnea include weight reduction, exercise, smoking avoidance and by taking medicines that controls hypertension.

"Apnea complicated by hypertensive cardio-vascular disease, if not corrected could also be life threatening," Gaurano said.

He noted that a spacious environment like a hospital or, if possible, a hotel is desirable for Garcia.

Bautista said apnea can "trigger and deprive the blood of oxygen and increase the amount of carbon dioxide."

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said Apnea is a sleep disorder common to almost everybody includ-

ing children. He said it could be treated without necessitating confinement in a hospital.

"It could even be treated by the patient itself," Villa-Ignacio said.

On Thursday, Garcia was rushed to the PNP Hospital after complaining of difficulty in breathing but was sent back to his cell after medical examinations showed no signs of life threatening illness.

The Sandiganbayan last Wednesday ordered Garcia's transfer of custody from the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to the PNP Headquarters in Camp Crame after his lawyers failed to convince the court of the necessity of his continued stay at the ISAFP headquarters.

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GMA: I feel your pain, too

From page A1

of mourning" on June 11 to bring the "sorry state" of the country to Malacañang's attention.

But Iñiguez, one of three Catholic bishops serving as KME senior advisers, stressed that he was not calling for the President's ouster.

He said the KME was in fact helping her stay in power by urging her to do something "so we can reverse" the worsening political and economic situation.

Oil prices

"Tough decisions to save the economy and the rise of oil prices beyond our call have taken their toll on the President's ratings," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

But he said the Palace was confident that the ratings had "bottomed out" and that "rising confidence in the economy will reverse the trend as we gain more investments, jobs and revenues to support our basic services."

Interviewed over d2MM radio, Bunye said high oil prices in the world market had caused local oil prices to go up as well.

He said this was something beyond the control of the government, which could only mitigate the impact of the high prices.

Still, he pointed out, the price of oil in the world market was now dropping. He said he expected this trend to continue.

Revenue measures

Bunye said Ms Arroyo's resolve to get Congress to pass vital revenue measures such as the Expanded Value-Added Tax law also helped bring down her rating.

He said the debate that accompanied the deliberations over these tax measures had been "contentious, controversial and unpopular."

"But the President had to do this in order to fix the economy," he said, adding:

"The economic reforms may be unpopular, but these are needed. And if the President did not push for them, then the country's economic condition could turn for the worse in three to five years."

In Benguet, Ms Arroyo said the revenue-generating measures would later help the government finance infrastructure development, among others.

She said this was why she was hoping that one day the country would no longer rely on foreign funds.

But House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said the administration had only itself to blame for Ms Arroyo's dismal rating because it did not listen to public opposition to its unpopular policies, like the expanded VAT.

"When we opposed this, they said

Black ribbons for GMA

THE KILUSANG Makabansaang Ekonomiya (KME) yesterday urged the people to wear black ribbons and black shirts daily beginning today to signify their indignation toward President Macapagal-Arroyo's governance.

Church bells will toll during the hour of the Divine Mercy at 3 p.m. daily as part of the mourning, said KME chair Jimmy Regulario.

The black campaign will culminate in a mass action at 2 p.m. on June 11,

we were just politicking and were out to destabilize the government ... But it is the people who come to us and complain that the administration's governance is not in accordance with their will," he said in Manila.

Malacañang accused Bishop Iñiguez and his fellow KME advisers, Bishops Julio Xavier Labayen and Antonio Tobias, of destabilizing the administration when they publicly called for drastic economic reforms on Labor Day.

The three bishops—considered moderates among the Catholic clergy—were accused along with certain personalities in the opposition.

Iñiguez said that shortly afterwards, he had a chance to air his sentiments to the President in a brief phone conversation arranged by a friend.

"I assured her that we're not after her ouster, that our concern, really, was to correct the situation," he said.

He recalled that Ms Arroyo sounded "approving" over the phone. But he said he had noticed no change in her governance.

"More reason to mourn"

For the KME, "there is much more reason to mourn than to celebrate" on Independence Day.

"We're not even a nation-state anymore," Bishop Labayen lamented. "We don't have our own autonomy, and that includes the political [sector] too. We are beholden to the global system ... [We] are co-opted by it. And that's the reason there is some mourning: because we have lost our so-called independence or autonomy as a nation."

Labayen and his peers want a stop to the foreign debt servicing that has forced the government to come up with new tax measures such as the expanded VAT.

"The essence of national debt today must be understood," the KME said in a paper. "Why must we pay those debts when Argentina now is a successful case of the moral wisdom

of repudiating our national debt?"

The June 11 program has drawn support from Bishops Rolando Tirona of the prelature of Iñanga and Vicente Navarra of Basilan, Regulario said.

He said the protest action would be "open to everybody," including militant groups and members of the political opposition who share the KME's observations on the economy.

"But there would be no accusations, no agitation," he said. "The program will be purely educational."

Various opinions were aired regarding the steep drop in the President's performance rating.

"The decline now seems irreversible because there is no meaningful change in her administration's policies," said Renato Reyes Jr., secretary general of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

Reyes said Bayan expected a further decline in Ms Arroyo's rating with the impending hike in power rates, the expanded VAT, and the yet unresolved problems of graft and corruption.

"[Ms Arroyo] may be nearing the end, and she knows it," he said.

Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano said Ms Arroyo's dismal rating was a "crystal-clear sign" of her "extreme political isolation" from the people and showed her "vulnerability" to being "unseated from power."

The government, too

Antipolo Rep. Ronaldo Puno said it was the whole government that should worry about the plunge in Ms Arroyo's rating.

Puno, leader of the pro-administration party Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), said at a press conference in Quezon City that the task of ensuring the administration's political stability should not solely rest on the President's shoulders.

But Albay Rep. Joey Salceda said the "jueteng" scandal and worsening unemployment problem contributed largely.

"We recognize ... unemployment as a major problem because the President promised 8-10 million jobs," Salceda said at the weekly Rembrandt news forum.

He noted that it was already halfway through the year but the government had produced only 87,000 jobs, a far cry from the 1.8 million generated last year. *With reports from Philip C. Rubenz, Michael Lim Ubac and Norman Bordadora*

SO THE TRUTH MAY BE KNOWN on the OWWA-Medicare issue

In light of recent accusations of certain OFW groups that the P530 million in OWWA-Medicare funds transferred to PhilHealth were misused, we would like to assure OFWs and their families, as well as the reading public, that not a single cent of the said funds was mismanaged.

Contrary to what these OFW groups claim, the funds were transferred to us **starting March 2005**. The first tranche worth P300M was transferred on March 16 and the second and final tranche worth P230M was transferred on April 15. The total amount transferred was actuarially determined and both the OWWA and PhilHealth agreed that this was the amount needed to pay for the claims of OFWs for one year. As such, there is absolutely no truth to the rumor that the said amount was moved to us prior to last year's elections.

In addition, the Medicare fund from OWWA is intact, and securely placed in government securities such as special savings deposits (SSDs) and Treasury Bills in government depository banks. These are used to pay for the medical care claims of OFWs and their families as well as for the salaries of about 92 OWWA personnel who joined PhilHealth upon the turnover of the program function. To date, we have paid close to P6 million for the medical care claims of OFWs and their families.

As guardians of the health insurance funds, we are and we will continue to exercise prudence in its management, to make sure that our member-OFWs and their families are able to avail themselves of the hospitalization benefits whenever and wherever they need these. After all, this is our commitment to the public we serve.

The WORLD

Editor Laverne B. Guico

Crisis seen threatening EU's role on world stage

By Leon Bruneau

BRUSSELS—Growing uncertainty over the EU's future, as its leaders grapple for a way forward after twin blows to its constitution, risks severely damaging the bloc's credibility on the world stage, analysts say.

"Outside Europe, more than inside Europe, doubt is setting in, uncertainty reigns," noted Luxembourg prime minister and currently EU president Jean-Claude Juncker after Dutch voters roundly rejected the constitution on Wednesday.

"It's a dangerous situation that is by the way weakening and risks further weakening the influence of the European Union's global policies," he said.

The "no" votes in France and the Netherlands against the text, aimed at making the expanding Union more administratively efficient, come at a time when the EU's foreign policy ambitions have never been higher.

The bloc has played a key role in the Iran nuclear standoff, is prodding forward Israel and the Palestinians, massively backs the Afghan authorities, and is helping hold the Balkans together after the wars in the 1990s.

It is also moving into new territory in helping resolve the conflict in Sudan's Darfur region and will host a major international conference on Iraq in a few weeks.

And as leaders in the 25-member Union cast about despairingly for another way forward now that the charter appears a dead letter, the doubt even seeped in at the high-profile EU summit with the United States.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, speaking on Thursday after the summit with a "troika" of senior EU officials, sought to play down the impact of the votes but hinted that the nature of their future ties is unclear.

"We understand that this has been a difficult period and that there will be some period of reflection going forward," Rice said. "But we continue to hope for an outward-looking Europe, not an inward-looking one."



ENVIRONMENT DAY

A Jordanian girl plays in one of the many public parks spread throughout the desert kingdom during World Environment Day in Amman June 3. World Environment Day is sponsored by the United Nations Environment Program and is celebrated internationally.

AP/WIDE

She reaffirmed US support for a strong Europe and said the trans-Atlantic allies had many issues before them. "We are confident that this partnership will continue to grow and to be put to use in the service of great goals."

Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn conceded that, following the French and Dutch voters, "Europe is a little bit hesitating" after decades of integration. "Europe is not denied,

not rejected by these two countries.

"But it seems to be misunderstood," he added.

US commentators agreed that the EU turmoil will inevitably impact on its international relations.

"It's going to be difficult for it (the EU) to serve as a useful partner for the United States going forward," said Robin Niblett of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. **AFP**

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EU may scrap all referendums

LISBON—EU leaders may decide to scrap all other planned referendums on the bloc's new constitution during their summit later this month in the wake of its rejection by voters in France and the Netherlands, Portuguese Foreign Minister Diogo Freitas do Amaral has said.

"What may happen at the next European Council is that the leaders of the 25 member states could conclude that it would be a useless and even painful exercise if it appeared that successive referendums would produce more 'no' results," he told state television RTP late Thursday.

The referendums could either be temporarily suspended to give time for a period of reflection or "the whole process could be terminated," he added.

"We can't be blind to reality and we can't pretend that nothing happened in France and the Netherlands, that nothing could happen with the British government. We can't act like an ostrich," said Freitas. **AFP**

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Israeli commandos admit following order to do 'an eye for an eye' killings

JERUSALEM—Israeli commandos killed eight Palestinian policemen in "eye for an eye" shootings three years ago that were ordered to avenge commandos slain in an ambush on an army checkpoint in the West Bank, an eyewitness said on Friday.

The report in the Maariv Daily, confirmed by senior Israeli security sources, was the latest public challenge to the Jewish state's official insistence that its forces have acted by a strict code of ethics in handling a Palestinian uprising.

After gunmen from the Palestinian faction Fatah killed six soldiers at a checkpoint outside the West Bank city

of Ramallah on Feb. 19, 2002, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon approved stepping up the scale and variety of retaliation.

"The feeling was that this would be 'an eye for an eye,'" an ex-soldier who took part in the shooting spree three years ago told Maariv.

Eighteen Palestinian were killed in various retaliatory attacks, including eight policemen shot while manning their checkpoints near Ramallah and Nablus, another West Bank city.

"We are going to liquidate Palestinian policemen at a checkpoint in revenge for our six soldiers that they killed," the ex-commando quoted his

commander as ordering the troops.

At one of three checkpoints raided by the Palestinians managed to return fire, but caused no Israeli casualties, Maariv said.

"The moment we knew we were going to retaliate, we no longer saw them as human," another former commando said.

Maariv's interviewees, whose names were withheld for what the newspaper called legal reasons, said they decided to come forward as part of "breaking the silence," a campaign by former soldiers to expose alleged Israeli abuse of Palestinians.

The army said in a statement it re-

sponded to the Maariv report that its forces attacked "checkpoints manned by Palestinian policemen who facilitated the passage and actively warned terrorists." The Palestinian Authority, which at the time denied that members of its security forces were complicit in attacks on Israelis, has since acknowledged some misdeeds as militants.

Reprisals have long loomed large in Israeli strategic planning, beginning in the 1940s when it answered cross-border raids by Arab irregulars in kind. After 11 Israeli soldiers were killed by Palestinian gunmen during the 1992 Munich Olympics, Israel went again to assassinate the attack's mastermind. **Reuters**

Sickening Srebrenica video brings arrests of 8 Serb militiamen

BELGRADE—A sickening video of Serb paramilitary soldiers in the act of murdering six Bosnian Muslim youth near Srebrenica in 1995 shocked Serbia on Thursday and led to the immediate arrest of eight suspects.

Prime Minister Vukobrat Kostovic said the arrests were ordered after the country was shown a "brutal, callous and disgusting crime against civilians," in a 10-year-old video that came to light this week.

President Boris Tadic went on national television to tell Serbs the pictures were proof of the "monstrous" crimes committed in Serbia's name during the Yugoslav wars—crimes for which many senior Serbs are already convicted or on trial by The Hague tribunal. "These are in these pictures committing murder were five years and yesterday. They were walking our streets," a visibly shaken Tadic said in a news conference. They must face justice, he added.

The graphic film was shot near the town, whose name now recalls the worst massacre in Europe since World War II, in which 8,000 Muslim men and boys were killed over several days and their bodies discarded into mass graves.

It was shown by the prosecution during the war crimes trial of former Serbian army commander Slobodan Milosevic in The Hague on Wednesday.

It was the first such graphic material from the massacre in Srebrenica to be shown in Serbia, where over half of the population refuse to believe the massacre even took place, according to a poll in May.

It began with a Serb Orthodox priest blessing the camera-filmed paramilitary troops in a short camp in Bosnia.

The grim scenes of burned and tortured young men seen by at least two Serbian television channels, including state television RTS.

Tadic said he was ready to go to Srebrenica in July on



TH-51 Image taken from a video introduced by the prosecution June 1 during the hearings is the trial of former President Slobodan Milosevic at the UN court in The Hague, Netherlands, purports to show a member of the Serbian paramilitary unit known as the Scorpions shooting a Bosnia Muslim civilian prisoner of war in 1995.

the 10th anniversary of the massacre.

Srebrenica was a United Nations-designated "safe area" in 1995, but it was overrun by Bosnian Serb forces who pushed 8,000 armed Muslim troops aside. In a shocking population was sent on for execution and the bodies were left to rot.

The prime suspect in the Srebrenica massacre was Bosnian Serb commander Radko Mladic and his political leader Slobodan Milosevic. The United Nations war

crimes court is demanding their arrest before Bosnia has to face the Srebrenica massacre, but there are no signs that the pair are anywhere in custody.

They are still on the run about 10 years after it occurred.

Their handover to The Hague is the main condition for Serbia and Bosnia to be allowed to make progress in their ties with the European Union and Nato. **Reuters**

First man jailed under new Canada sex tourism law

WINNIPEG—Shaking and disheveled, a local hotel worker was sentenced Thursday to 10 years in jail for sex crimes against Canadian children and adults on prostitution here, in the first such prosecution under a new Canadian law targeting foreign sex tourism.

Donald Riddler pled guilty to a total of 10 sex crimes. He had admitted to nine against two children and three during a 2003 trip to Cambodia, as well as to three violent assaults on women prostitutes in this western Canadian metropolis.

A judge sentenced Riddler, 41, a balding married father of one daughter to a total of 10 years behind bars.

The Canadian girls were aged seven to 14, lived in Siem Reap, Cambodia, and were involved in the country's sex tourism industry, prostitution apologist Simon Lewis told APN.

Only some of the children involved, however, were identified through a joint investigation by Canadian authorities and the human rights organization International Justice Mission.

"In my experience both with the US Department of Justice and with (the nongovernmental organization), I have never been involved in a case involving such a large number of children as young," International Justice Mission vice president Sharon Cohen said in a statement from the group's office in Washington, D.C.

The case began in the past days after police received a call on December 3, 2003, about a naked woman screaming in some bushes in Winnipeg's downtown district, an impoverished neighborhood where scores of drug-addicted women work as prostitutes.

Police found Riddler with a crying, disheveled woman who told them she had had a "bad date."

They arrested the hotel worker for sexual assault, and seized video tapes he was carrying that showed him in violent sexual encounters with the woman and other prostitutes.

An ongoing investigation eventually revealed more victims of Riddler engaged in sex acts with young children in a foreign location, according to the authorities.

However, it was a pure coincidence that the children and their location in Cambodia were ever identified.

A Canadian policeman working on the Riddler case was watching a videotaped report about the International Justice Mission, which works to rescue sex slaves, when he recognized scenery in the report as the same as in some of Riddler's tapes. **APN**

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2005

The WORLD

A1

**\$4.5-MILLION COIN**

THIS undated photo from the Professional Coin Grading Service shows the head of a 1913 US Liberty Head nickel depicting "Miss Liberty." The coin, one of only five known to exist, was sold on Thursday to a coin dealership in New Jersey for \$4.15 million, the second-highest price ever reported paid for a rare coin.

Heat wave in Bangladesh, India, Nepal kills 100

DHAKA—A heat wave sweeping India, Bangladesh and Nepal has killed nearly 100 people over the past two weeks, officials said on Friday.

A third of the people died in northern Bangladesh, mostly women and children from dehydration, heat stroke and diarrhea.

"We are getting reports of several deaths due to heat wave and related diseases almost every day," an official at the Bangladesh health department said, as temperatures touched 43 degrees Celsius (109.4 degrees Fahrenheit).

The weather office in Dhaka said the hot weather will persist for another week until the monsoon rains which are normally due by the middle of June.

Severe heat conditions in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh and its neighboring Orissa have killed at least 55 people, officials in the two states said.

While temperatures have fallen from a high of 45 degrees Celsius in Andhra Pradesh to around 40 degrees, giving a reprieve to people, they are still on the rise in Orissa with Talcher town registering 46.5 degrees Celsius, a weather official said.

At least five people have died in Nepal from extreme heat, the government said.

An Indian government research body forecast on Thursday dismal rains in the first half of the four-month monsoon season, triggering alarm bells across the region. **Reuters**

Obesity's health costs more than smoking, drinking

ATHENS—Treating obesity-related disorders costs as much or more than illnesses caused by aging, smoking and problem drinking.

It accounts for 2 percent of the national health expenditure in France and Australia, more than 3 percent in Japan and Portugal and 4 percent in the Netherlands.

A review of research into the economic causes and consequences of obesity presented at the 14th European Congress on Obesity showed that in 2003 up to \$46.7 billion was spent on obesity problems in the United States.

"An increase in the prevalence of obesity increases the health-care costs," Anne Wolf of the University of Virginia School of Medicine said.

"As age increases so do health-care costs for obesity." Obesity, which is a risk factor for chronic diseases like diabetes, is calculated using the body mass index (BMI)—dividing weight in kilograms by height in meters squared.

A BMI of more than 30 is considered obese, more than 40 is very severe.

The costs of dealing with the consequences of obesity rise along with the severity of the disorder. Being overweight or obese increases the odds of suffering from diabetes, cardiovascular disease and osteoarthritis which are the major reasons for obesity health-care costs.

"Each unit increase in BMI is associated with a 2.3 percent cost increase," said Wolf.

Although most of the cost analysis for obesity has been done in the United States, where about 30 percent of adults are obese, Wolf said the figures would be comparable for other western countries with rising rates of obesity.

An estimated 10-20 percent of men and 10-25 percent of women in European countries are obese.

Along with hefty health costs, obesity is also associated with a greater loss of productivity and increased rates of disability.

Studies in the United States have shown that about 6 percent of people with a healthy weight are unable to work but the figure rises to 10 percent or more among the obese.

Much of the health-care spending on obesity-related problems is due to prescription drug costs and more hospital stays.

Obese patients are more likely to require medication for diabetes, cardiovascular disease, pain relief, asthma and other illnesses than people with a normal weight, according to Wolf.

Despite the health and economic consequences of obesity, which affects more than 300 million people worldwide including a growing number of children and adolescents, health experts believe it is one of the most neglected public health issues.

"It is a very serious problem," said Wolf. "The excess costs of obesity are present in all ages."

Reuters

Cheney attack on Kim may scuttle N. Korea talks

WASHINGTON—The White House on Thursday defended outspoken personal criticism of North Korean leader Kim Jong-il by Vice President Dick Cheney that may have dashed any hopes of bringing Pyongyang back to six-party nuclear talks.

Cheney had called Kim an "irresponsible" leader who did not care for his people and ran a police state, drawing a strong rebuke Thursday from Pyongyang, which slammed the US vice president as a "lied-thirty beast."

"We are going to call it the way it is," White House spokesperson Scott McClellan told reporters as he backed Cheney's verbal broadside made in an interview on CNN's "Larry King Live" program on Monday.

Charles Fritchard, the special envoy for talks with North Korea during President Bill Clinton's second term in office, said Cheney's volley was "deliberate."

"It certainly had an effect that many in the Bush administration would like to see and that is the cooling of the possibility of the North Koreans returning to the six party talks," he said.

"The chances of the North Koreans coming back to the talks anytime soon are now less likely," Fritchard said.

He noted that Cheney's criticism of the North Korean leader came just two weeks after US special envoy Joseph deToro held a rare direct meeting with North Koreans asking them to return to the six-party meeting.

Hostile US policy

North Korea has boycotted the talks—also involving China, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the United States—since the last round a year ago due to what it called hostile US policy.

"The stated policy of the Bush administration is to bring North Korea back to talks and precisely while the North Koreans were considering this, given the message by Ambassador Joseph deToro on May 13, the Vice President has essentially trumped that message and it has caused the North Koreans predictably to react the way that they have," Fritchard said.

But North Asia analyst Baibina Hwang of the conservative Heritage Foundation said the White House defense of Cheney did not reinforce any notion that the United States had given up hopes on the six-party talks.

"Cheney's comments were not something new and does not indicate any shift in policy," she said. "And I do not think strong statements labeling North Korea for what it is, is what is preventing North Korea from coming back to the table."

"They do not want to return to the talks because they want to continue with their nuclear weapons program," Hwang said.

McClellan said Pyongyang's harsh words for Cheney were "more of the same kind of bluster we hear from North Korea from time to time."

"All of the parties are saying to North Korea that it needs to abandon its nuclear weapons ambitions. We all share the goal of a nuclear-free Korean peninsula. North Korea is the

one that must make a strategic decision" if it wants to have better relations with the international community, said McClellan.

"They may make provocative statements, but they will only further isolate themselves from the international community. We've

made very clear that we are committed to the six-party talks," he said.

Pyeonggang released its nuclear arms program in violation of a 1994 accord. Washington insists Pyongyang has several atomic bombs in its arsenal. **AFP**

WHAT'S INSIDE

Amatong, 2 others named MB members



Comprehensive wood industry policy sought

NTC drafts new rules for telecom companies

Pre-need industry sales down 24% in April

BREAKTIME

PPI, Lifetime Plans run into trouble with SEC

Campaign to promote seaweed industry starts

BUSINESS

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Lito Kaurit, Manila
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Nolasco

Morgan Stanley bullish on RP

Fiscal reforms to boost infrastructure spending

By Michael V. Flores

INVESTMENT bank Morgan Stanley said the Philippines could expect a substantial rise in investments over years as developments on the fiscal front would help create an environment ripe for businesses.

"If the pace of reform continues, we believe that as the fiscal accounts reach normalcy and at least longer investments, there will be some momentum in the southeast next year, boosted by the government's investment in social and infrastructure activities," Morgan Stanley said in a paper titled *Investment in the Southeast*.

In assessing reforms, the investment bank was referring to the implementation of measures intended to reduce the government's burgeoning fiscal problem.

It cited the recent signing of the value-added tax law, the A-roy administration's push on raising revenues. The law, which expanded the coverage of VAT to include electricity sold, was intended to generate P28 billion in additional revenue in the remainder of this year, and to reach an P40 billion annually starting 2009.

The IMF has also given a nod for authority to the President to raise the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent next year, and Morgan noted the corporate income tax rate from 32 to 25 percent.

However, Morgan Stanley and the government should establish a strict monitoring of tax compliance of taxpayers to ensure that the potential potential revenue from the new tax laws would actually be manifested into collections.

It said the additional revenue from the tax measures would ensure room for the government's tight budget in spending on infrastructure. Higher spending on infrastructure would, in turn, create business incentives to finally place their money in the Philippines.

The rate of investment in the Philippines grew double-digit per year from 1994 to 2004. Morgan Stanley said the figure could be starting 2009.



AN AERIAL view of a portion of Subic Freeport.

Broad powers for SBMA, CDC eyed

A Bill, sponsored by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) and the Clark Development Corp. (CDC) to develop special economic zones in Subic, Clark and Lucena has been filed in the Senate. According to Sen. Richard Gordon, author of the bill, the legislative proposal was aimed at providing incentives and creating more business opportunities in the areas mentioned by Subic and Clark.

A law providing such powers to SBMA and CDC was also necessary so that the agency could maintain and complement the growth of the major pieces of infrastructure in Lucena, the airport in Subic and Clark and

the airports in Subic and Manila. Under Senate Bill No. 3440, SBMA and the CDC shall have the authority to develop other special economic zones in Subic, Clark and Lucena, and to manage and operate them. To fulfill such a function, the law agencies shall also be given the power to increase funds from local and national institutions, or to raise money through bonds, loans or transfers of other credits. "The state must be aggressive in taking advantage of the strategic infrastructure in Subic, Clark and Manila as international transportation hubs," Gordon said in the explanatory note of the bill.

PHOTO BY JIM

INDICATOR

CURRENCIES

PERO DOLLAR RATE



1997 2008

PERO DOLLAR RATE	PERO DOLLAR RATE
April 1, 2008	107.88
April 1, 2007	107.88
April 1, 2006	107.88

PERO DOLLAR RATE
per peso: Hong Kong, June 3, 2008

June 3, 2008	USD	Local	Local	Local	Local
Currency		Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate
United States	USD	1.00	75.25	1.00	75.25
Japan	JPY	1.00	107.88	1.00	107.88
United Kingdom	GBP	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Germany	EUR	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
France	EUR	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Canada	CAD	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
India	INR	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
China	CNY	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
South Korea	KRW	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Thailand	THB	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Malaysia	MYR	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Indonesia	IDR	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Philippines	PHP	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Vietnam	VND	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
South Africa	ZAR	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Brazil	BRL	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Argentina	ARS	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Chile	CLP	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Colombia	COP	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Costa Rica	CRC	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Cuba	CUP	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Dominican Republic	RD\$	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Ecuador	USD	1.00	75.25	1.00	75.25
El Salvador	USD	1.00	75.25	1.00	75.25
Guatemala	GTQ	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Honduras	USD	1.00	75.25	1.00	75.25
Mexico	MXN	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Nicaragua	CRD	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Panama	BALBOA	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Paraguay	GUARANI	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Peru	SOLES	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Portugal	EUR	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Romania	LEI	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Slovakia	SKK	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Slovenia	EUR	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Spain	EUR	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Sweden	KR	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Switzerland	CHF	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Taiwan	NTD	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Turkey	TRY	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Ukraine	UAH	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Uruguay	PESOS	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82
Venezuela	BOLIVARS	1.00	147.82	1.00	147.82

STOCK MARKET

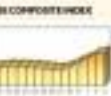
Shares end up 0.6% as foreign funds fuel rise

INVESTORS in the Philippine stock market ended the day with a slight gain, as foreign funds continued to pour money into the market. The benchmark S&P Composite Philippine Stock Index ended up 11.81 points, or 0.6 percent, at 2,025.46, its highest since March 21, when it ended at 2,013.75. The index rose for the seventh straight day.

"There's still buying momentum spurred by strong foreign demand," said Aji Capital Securities research director Jose Valera. Valera said the change in the value of the S&P index, which is a key indicator of the health of the Philippine stock market, may have helped fuel the rise.

"There was a transition from a panic, which is a bit risky," Valera said. "It has helped open the floodgates of foreign funds returning to the market."

On Monday, Aji Capital Securities said the index rose for the seventh straight day, as foreign funds continued to pour money into the market. The index rose for the seventh straight day, as foreign funds continued to pour money into the market.



1997 2008

S&P COMPOSITE INDEX

per peso: Hong Kong, June 3, 2008

per peso: Hong Kong, June 3, 2008

per peso: Hong Kong, June 3, 2008

per peso: Hong Kong, June 3, 2008

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per peso: Hong Kong, June 3, 2008

per peso: Hong Kong, June 3, 2008



By Jigs Mawya of Shw. Mawya
Photographs by Tom Eggen.com

MAN HAS always had a fascination with the number two. Throughout the course of history, there have been famous duos such as Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, David and Goliath, Arthur and Guinevere, Romeo and Juliet, Mark and Mandy, John and Martin, Cagney and Laury, Michael and Elvira, Mary Kate and Ashley, and the famous Twins.

But the number one dose we just have left is well-known. Paracetamol. It can relieve from its immediate effects, usually everything that aches and aches. Like the rest of your body.

anyway right now. Do those Chinese think that you brought her back. The pair of women that you stole said to me your hair is like the two sides, the dragon-side you used to gubbe those your Chinese take-out last night when it was in Paris.

You may come across individuals who are two-faced. However, even the line between gay and straight seems to be getting blurrier as more and more people discover themselves.

This variety of *Thapsus* is common
over the whole of the Indian.

The two brothers, Cener and Peder, from the cape Gemini, Polaris, the son of a god, were immortal and was remembered for his strength, while the mortal brother Cener was famous for his skill with horses. They are traditionally depicted as seated with spears and taking a standard part of some other being.

In this issue of *Paper*, Nate the Dungeness man decides to play around with the concept of TPO and create a look for the pages of the final anniversary issue. To go along with King Edwards, the

chief strategic adviser and senior product expert at IBM Canada, Inc. thought of using the capabilities of the new iSeries and WebSphere.

April also marks the third anniversary of the opening of the San Lorenzo Ecopark in Chiriquetón, Japan in 1993. The yearly event for San Lorenzo is known as Ecopark Birthday which coincides with the launch of new marketing values and products. This year we're introducing coffee made by a small-scale interpretation of the ecotour collection in 1991.



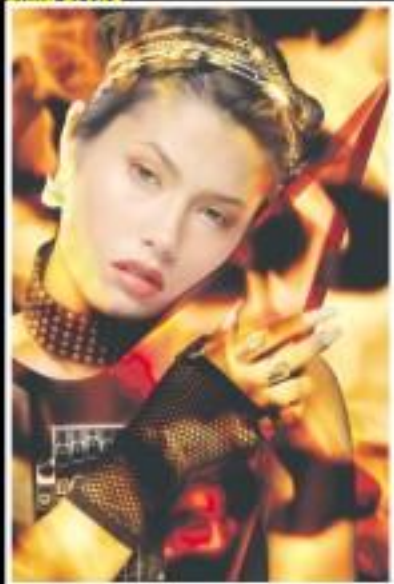
Shu Uemura was chosen to play around with the concept of two

POLLIX, SHORTEL
 Hair & Make-up:
 Long Collection of Skin Care
 Photography: Tim
 Spawson
 Imaging by DSE
 Styled by: Mithi Arora
 Modelled by: Lisa Bruehl

CASTOR, MORTAL
 Hair & Make-up:
 Long Wavy of Skin Care
 Photography: Tim
 Spawson
 Imaging by DSE
 Styled by: Mithi Ar
 Modelled by: Lisa Bruehl

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Child Of Fire



Two...
 Dos, Deux,
 Deuxes...
 Twice, Double
 Deux, Twofold,
 Binary...
 Duo, Partners,
 Pairs,
 Twosome,
 Twins...
 Yin and Yang,
 Protagonist
 and Antagonist,
 Immortal and
 Mortal
 Master and
 Protégé,
 Hard and Soft,
 High and Low,
 Strong and
 Weak...
 Two

Winter Nymphs





Two for the road

patient that leads (except in my opinion). If you want to be a writer, well, work on being the best damn artist there is! Whoa be a model? Then, learn the difference between running right and left (and yes, I've encountered more than a few on the ramp who will tell the diff). Whomsoever radiates you choose, punctuate it with positive bursts of yours (you want to be a drug runner, I will help you, I believe) should always wear the accessories. The same follows no rules.

[illegible][illegible]

Everyone's got something. The problem with artificial lights is that it makes it harder and harder to recognize the natural. That's all.

Two-minute texting has triggered increased cellular communication in the field. When I go out birding, I want constant birding. Technological leaps and bounds in avian/communication have somehow created a degree of depersonalization. Imagine that, the absence of a valley streambed leads to an "X" message on a nearby creek bank. "X" means "X" and opens up a window's view of mountains. And with messages like, "C. C. E. E. E." or "In the dark go to the stream." (So my English teachers are today's common horses, like me not the character of a young capital, for nothing—just my exhibiting your should presents in them, of an aspect, and be prepared to gather more than a few "oh's")

[illegible]

Taking the road less traveled really does make a difference. Two roads diverged in a wooded forest. One was paved, and had cars in it; the other was dirt, and had none. The paved road was called "Main," the dirt road "Side." The paved road was straight, but the dirt road was curved, so it was harder to walk on. The paved road was more crowded, but the dirt road was less crowded, so it was better. The paved road was more crowded, but the dirt road was less crowded, so it was better. The paved road was more crowded, but the dirt road was less crowded, so it was better.

Here's an unusual, unnecessary, and boring report and all that "Dope," said to some adventures involving the Windows.

ON THE MOVE

HUMAN

Fashion Show

Glorietta Activity Center June 4, 2005 Saturday 6pm

featuring
**Luis Manzano &
Geoff Eigenmann**